

nine years old at Gateway Christian School, but the school that I go to now has brought me closer and closer to God. I told the Lord that I knew that He was there and I wanted Him to be with me always. It's amazing the different ways that people come to find Him. I have learned that God knows every action, every thought, and every move I make. He has done so much for me and I am very grateful for that. I know in my heart that no matter where I go, He will always be with me.

I started attending Harbor Church Schools halfway through the school year, just four months ago, and within the first week of attending the school, I heard about this trip to Washington, DC. I was really excited but most everyone I talked to told me not to expect to be able to go because I was new and other kids would be chosen. But I applied anyway and as I was going through the process, a voice in my heart told me "You're going, so get ready!" I really believe that I have been called to this and God has something great in store.

I really hope to accomplish a lot while I'm here and that people will learn from something I've done. I would be happy if I could just minister to someone and tell them about the Lord. I would like to show people that it doesn't matter if you're just a kid when God calls you to do something. You don't have to be an adult to go out and minister and make a difference. If you simply live a life pleasing to the Lord and shine His light wherever you go, people will listen to you and their lives will be changed. We are all part of the huge world wide family of God and hopefully, if we all work together, we can make a difference. Just as a farmer plants seed, we are all planting the seeds of salvation in everyone we meet, and then someone else will come along and water the seeds until it grows into something beautiful.

Unfortunately, some of our leaders today are not Christians and so we especially need to pray for them. But even Christians need prayer. Sometimes, we fall short and feel like we can't even pray for ourselves. We need to be there for our leaders when they feel like that.

I want to thank you for listening to me tonight. Each one in our group was given the assignment of writing a speech. However, I'm not here because I have to. I'm here because I want to and God has called me. I pray that you will hear the call that He is giving to you today also and that together, He will use us to change our nation. Thank you.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER CONGRESS,
MAY 1-3, 2000

SPEECH BY DRAKE MUNOZ, DIPLOMATIC
BANQUET

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I am Drake Munoz and I am happy to be a part of the National Children's Prayer Network. I am here to pray for the leaders of this country.

When I was five years of age, I received the Lord. His Word became my manual for life. If you have a question, God will answer that question. He has also helped me through bad times. For example, one of my pets died and I got very sad, so I went to the Lord and He helped me with my problem. As you can see, once you accept the Lord Jesus Christ, your whole life will change. You will also want to go deeper into His Word. I believe that if you receive the Lord Jesus Christ, all of your sins that you have done will be washed away by His blood. If you do not know the Lord, I

would encourage you today to accept Jesus as your personal Savior.

I think we do not only need to pray for the leaders of our country, but for other countries which have problems just like ours. We need to pray that their country would stay strong, and that they would keep their eyes on God. Tonight, our prayer focus has been on the nation of India. There are many differences between our two nations, yet we are a lot alike. Our lifestyle and our food may be different, but we also have something in common. We both have houses, but not made of the same material. Most important, they want to have a normal life just like us.

Right now, I would like to give a message to our current leaders in office. Remember that God gave you a great gift to lead a country as big as the United States of America. I believe that you should treat this responsibility carefully. Also that you would listen to God's direction to lead such a big country. If you have a question, ask God. He will direct you what decision you need to make. The President has a big job which a lot of people could not handle, so all us should be praying for him. I think we should all pray for his health and that his family would be okay. Also that he listens to God to run this country because without God no one can run this country or any other country.

I would like to thank you for your time and patience. I would like to end in a word of prayer.

Dear Jesus, I would like to thank you for such a wonderful day that you have given us. I would like to ask you Lord that you would put your hand over the current leaders of this country. We all know how hard they are working to run this country. It is a tough job that people think is easy, but they do not know what they have to do everyday. I would like to ask you to put your hands over the families of these leaders, that the job they are doing is not affecting their family time. We ask that you would give them the strength to continue to work hard. I ask that you put your hand over India, that they would be a better country, that they would keep strong in faith, and they would put their eyes on You. In your Precious Son's name, Amen.

WRITE IT ON THE GATE
(By Lin Story)

The gate is a place of entry. It's the door through which provision for the household enters. It is a gathering place and at times a place where businesses transactions occur. In Bible times it was a place where counsel was given and disputes were judged. The gate is also a place of exit. What happens at the gate makes a difference to those who are inside. As you stand at the gate of the White House, remember it is just like the gate of your own heart. What you allow to enter and what you allow to exit will make a great difference in the life you will lead. The Ten Commandments were given to us as an act of God's mercy. He knew we needed to be told and reminded of the way in which we were to relate to God and to our fellow man. In his mercy, he told us the truth. The Ten Commandments are not unreasonable laws given to hold us in bondage. Jesus came as a fulfillment of God's law. That means he gave the law a clear purpose. Because of Jesus our salvation comes through faith and repentance but our quality of life is found in obedience to God's law. If we will obey His law with grateful hearts then we will rejoice in the blessing of obedience. Today at the gate of this most important house we celebrate

the gift of God's law. And we thank Him for the freedom that His law brings into our lives and our nation.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET MARTIN
COLE OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Margaret Martin Cole of Madison County, AL. Margaret is a dear friend of mine and a friend of my entire community. Today she is being awarded the Madison County Democratic Women's Division's Lifetime Achievement Award. Today's recognition sheds light on the years of good deeds Margaret has accomplished.

She has been a vital leader in the Madison County Democratic Women since she helped form the group in 1961. She has seen it all and has led the women in several capacities. In the past 39 years, she has promoted good citizenship by encouraging Alabamians to exercise their right to vote. She has done everything from serving as a poll worker to organizing Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign for Madison County. Presently, she serves as the Chair of the John F. Kennedy Scholarship Committee.

Margaret's commitment to her community is not limited to the political arena. As founder of the Gothic Guild, she has served as their President and on their Board of Directors. She has also contributed her time and manifold talents to the Historic Huntsville Foundation, the Huntsville Press Club and Trinity United Methodist Church.

I believe this is a fitting honor for one who has given so much to the betterment of our community and our nation. I commend Margaret for her lifetime of achievement and I want to express my sincere gratitude for her bold work for the Democratic party and the patriotic ideals she believes in.

A TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER
SYLVESTER MICHAEL SIKON

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to one of our unsung heroes, Petty Officer Sylvester Michael Sikon. On February 16, 1945, Petty Officer Sikon made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country during World War II—he gave his life.

On Friday, May 5, 2000, a long overdue tribute will be given to this distinguished individual—a Memorial service will be held at the Arlington National Cemetery. Petty Officer Sikon will finally take his rightful place among the other heroes of this great nation.

This day would not be possible without the dedication of one person—Mr. Leo Sikon, Sylvester's cousin. Leo's tireless determination to make sure this country does not forget his cousin's sacrifice will not go unnoticed.